

**EDLER-** Established in 1916, Edler was initially little more than a post office. By 1925, the community recorded a population of 10 with two general mercantiles and blacksmith shop. Edler reached its peak population of 25 in 1932. The WPA constructed a new sandstone school and bus barn for the community in the late 1930s. The school also held church services until 1953 when residents built the Edler Community Church. The church closed in 1987 but re-opened in 2006 for Sunday evening Bible study.

**MAXEY-** Once located northeast of Springfield was the town of Maxey. A post office had been established at Maxey in 1889 during Baca County's first homesteading boom. A new wave of homesteaders began arriving in the 1910s and businesses were opened. In 1915, Maxey was described as a country town with a population of 30. Only the Maxey Church and Cemetery remain of Maxey.



**BARTLETT -** Along Highway 160 east of Walsh, a grain elevator rises to the north and a small commercial building lies to the south. These are all that remain of the town of Bartlett, platted as a railroad town in 1926 along with nearby Walsh. Once home to around 50 people and several businesses including a garage, billiards parlor, blacksmith, the Fairmont Cream Station, Farmers Elevator Co., Jett

Hardware & Lumber Co., and a mercantile, Bartlett struggled for existence and was abandoned by 1939, outpaced by the more successful Walsh.



**STONINGTON -** The community of Stonington thrived during the 1910s and early 1920s, with a population of 140 and a variety of businesses including a mercantile, bank, billiards parlor, a chiropractor, a barber, and a creamery. Business began to decline in the late 1920s due to competition from the newly established Walsh, and several of Stonington's commercial buildings were moved to the new town. Stonington's most prominent landmark is the Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1917. Next to the church are Stonington's high school and elementary school, used through the 1950s.

**SPRINGFIELD** - Organized by the Windsor Town Company in 1887, Springfield is the county seat of Baca County. Eighty acres was secured by the title company. After being surveyed and platted, lots were given to anyone willing to construct a building of stated dimensions.

The first and second court-houses were destroyed by fires during the 1910s, and the present court-house was

constructed in 1929. Springfield continues to be the most populated town in Baca County.



This crossroads community was located at the midpoint between Elkhart, Kansas, and Campo, Colorado. Midway offered services including gas, a convenience store, and the only telephone for miles.

**MIDWAY** - At the intersection of County Roads M and 49 stands a small collection of buildings, most prominent among them an old gas station boasting the name Midway.



**KONANTZ** - Konantz was established in the early 1910s. The small town claimed a population of about 15 and included only a post office

and general mercantile. Of the town, all that remains today is the cemetery and an impressive WPA-constructed school building. Though the post office at Konantz existed for less than 10 years, the school district existed until Baca County consolidated its rural districts in 1960. Students of Konantz District 26 enjoyed a lively sports rivalry with the Stonington students through the 1940s and 1950s.



**WALSH** - The town of Walsh had a later start than most other towns in Baca County. Considered the youngest town in Baca County, Walsh was established on September 23, 1926. It was named after Joseph Walsh, a baggage agent for the Santa Fe Railroad. Many of the early residents were originally

from Stonington, and moved to Walsh after the Santa Fe Land Development Company offered free lots for businesses willing to relocate within six months.



**MINNEAPOLIS** - Established in the 1880s, Minneapolis briefly boasted a population of 500 or more. Abandoned by 1900, today only the cemetery remains. Original homesteader Gabriel Crill, who donated the land for the cemetery grounds, was buried here in 1931. The cemetery remains in use and is maintained by the Minneapolis Cemetery District, staffed in part by descendants of early homesteaders from the area.

**PRITCHETT** - Pritchett was one of three new towns built when the Santa Fe Rr came to Baca County. Since the town-site was only a short distance away, lots were offered to the merchants of Joycoy to move to Pritchett. The rail line opened for operation on February 1, 1927, several months after the first lot in Pritchett sold. Several buildings from Joycoy were moved to Pritchett, and on April 15, 1927 the Democrat Herald printed a poem about the demise of Joycoy titled, "JoyCoy No More."



**FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE HOMESTEADERS**





**TWO BUTTES** - The town of Two Buttes was established by the Two Buttes Irrigation and Reservoir Company in 1909 as trading center for the incoming homesteaders. The first building was the Hotel and Cafe, which also had bank. Currently this is the Two Buttes

Grocery. At one time, the population was said to be close to 600. It has since dwindled to 80, but is still one of six remaining incorporated towns in Baca County. the area.

**VILAS** - The town of Vilas as established in 1886 and incorporated in 1887. The population of Vilas in 1887 was 750. The town was complete with two newspapers, three dance halls, a bank, and at least 60 other businesses. In 1885 Vilas became the "Broomcorn Capital of Colorado" and a broomcorn factory was established by a local farmer. After a period of



decline, because of the drought of 1893, Vilas had a brief revival in the 1920s as a new round of settlers homesteaded in the surrounding area. Unfortunately, the

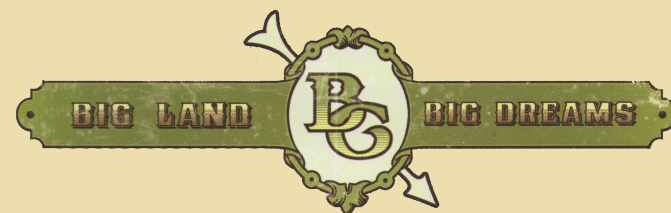
drought and depression of the 1930s hit the small rural community hard.

### **CAMPO** -

Located in south central Baca County, on Hwy 287, is the town of Campo. In 1912, the first post office in the Campo area was located in a two-room dugout. Homesteaders from Kansas settled in the area and used one room of their two-room dugout as the post office and the other as living quarters. In the coming years Campo slowly became established with a general store, post office and newspaper. But, it was not until the first mayor of Campo, Percy Miller, plowed Main Street with a steam engine that other businesses began to open. The 1920s were a boom time for Campo, complete with a filling station, band, drug store, barber shop, roller skating rink and theater. While Campo saw a major decline in population during the 1930s, it is one of only six remaining incorporated towns in Baca County.



**LYCAN** - Established in the 1880s, Minneapolis briefly boasted a population of 500 or more. Abandoned by 1900, today only the cemetery remains. Original homesteader Gabriel Crill, who donated the land for the cemetery grounds, was buried here in 1931. The cemetery remains in use and is maintained by the Minneapolis Cemetery District, staffed in part by descendants of early homesteaders from the area.



*Colorado Preservation, Inc. has conducted a survey of rural resources in Baca County. Agriculture has been predominant in the economy of the eastern portion of the state since settlement, but no comprehensive survey of agricultural resources has been conducted. Documenting the rural resources of Eastern Colorado is essential to understanding, preserving, and interpreting the built history of the region as well as laying a foundation for preservation planning, heritage tourism, and economic development.*



**Colorado Preservation, Inc.**  
BUILDING A FUTURE *with* HISTORIC PLACES

### **YOU COULD BE HERE**

